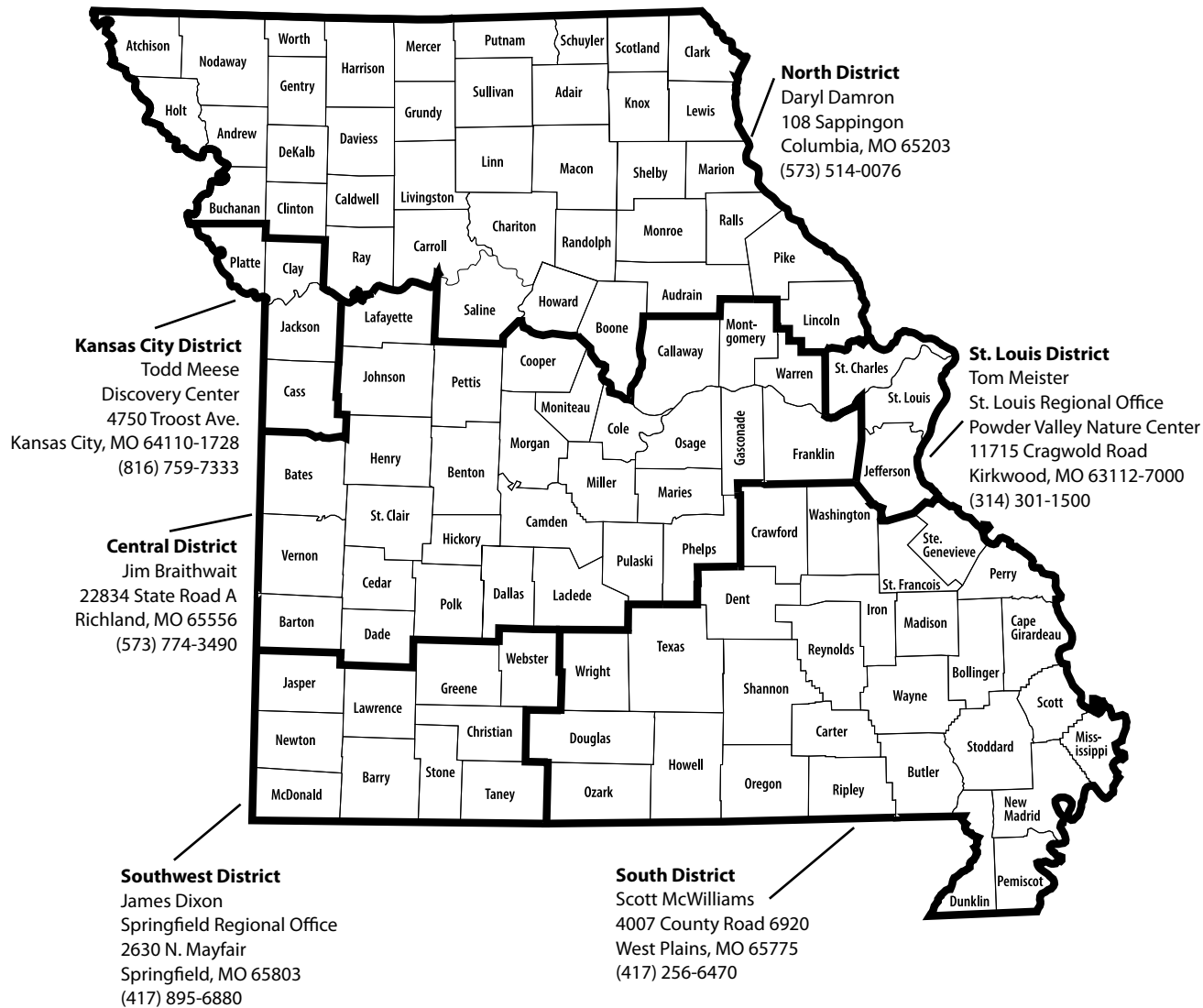


Wildlife Damage Districts

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P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
(573) 522-4115, ext. 3147

Booklets and pamphlets on specific wildlife damage and control problems are available:

- on-line at www.missouriconservation.org/landown
- by sending an e-mail request to pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov
- by writing to Free Publications, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180



Wildlife Damage

Management Program



Missouri Department
of Conservation



Wildlife Damage Management Program

The Wildlife Damage Management Program was established by the Missouri Department of Conservation to help minimize conflicts between wildlife and landowners. The program depends on a variety of methods to reduce wildlife damage, including habitat management, animal husbandry, repellents, traps and scare tactics.

Each complaint of wildlife damage received by the Conservation Department is analyzed to determine whether control is needed and to what extent, as well as the safest, most practical and most humane method for individuals and wildlife.

Population reduction is practiced when necessary, but only to the extent needed to reduce the problem to acceptable levels. In most cases only the animals causing damage are removed.

History

Wildlife damage management, including predator control, began in Missouri in 1821 when a bounty system was established. Bounties, however, proved ineffective at reducing the number of predators or the damage caused by them. In fact, complaints of animal damage slowly increased.

In 1923, Missouri hired six government trappers to remove problem animals. This approach proved so time-consuming that the trappers couldn't respond to complaints in a timely manner.

An extension predator control program began in 1945, employing two predator-control agents who trained farmers and landowners to remove offending predators and to prevent future damage. As wildlife populations grew, the program expanded to include any wildlife that caused substantial financial losses.

Today's Cooperative Program

Today, the Wildlife Damage Management Program consists of a central office supervisor and six wildlife damage biologists. Each biologist serves a portion of the state (see map on back of brochure).

The program provides the knowledge and equipment necessary for people to solve immediate problems and to prevent future damage situations.

There is no charge for the service and any materials used are sold to landowners at cost.

Services are limited to vertebrate pests only. Problems involving insects are referred to the University Extension Service, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. Problems that relate to federally endangered or threatened species, migratory birds or other federally protected species are handled through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, 1714 Commerce Court, Suite C, Columbia, MO 65202. The phone number is (573) 449-3033.

How to Get Help

The most common complaints about wildlife damage involve coyotes, beaver, geese or deer. A typical complaint might be about coyotes killing livestock.

If you are suffering losses and are unable to deal with the problem, first contact the local conservation agent for assistance. For the agent's name and phone number, call (573) 751-4115 or go to www.missouriconservation.org. If the agent cannot find a solution, he or she will notify the area's wildlife damage biologist.

The biologist will then contact you and offer suggestions on how to handle the problem and, if necessary, will visit with you at the damage site. The biologist will discuss various non-lethal or lethal control methods and advise the best approach to solving the problem and preventing future damage. If lethal control is necessary, the biologist will show you how to use specialized equipment, such as traps or other devices.

The following regulation from the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* allows you to use lethal hunting and trapping methods out of season to protect your property from immediate damage. To prevent future damage, the Department recommends hunting and trapping during the regular seasons.

3 CSR 10-4.130 Owner May Protect Property

(1) Subject to federal regulations governing the protection of property from migratory birds, any wildlife except deer, turkey, black bears and any endangered species which beyond reasonable doubt is damaging property may be captured or killed by the owner of the property being damaged, or by his/her representative, at any time and without permit, but only by shooting or trapping except by written authorization of the director or, for avian control, of his/her designee. Wildlife may be so controlled only on the owner's property to prevent further damage.

(2) Except as otherwise authorized by an agent of the department—

(A) Use of traps shall be in compliance with 3 CSR 10-8.510.

(B) Wildlife so captured or killed must be reported to an agent of the department within twenty-four (24) hours.

(3) Wildlife captured or killed shall be disposed of only in accordance with the instructions of an agent of the department.

(4) Deer, turkey, black bears and endangered species that are causing damage may be killed only with the permission of an agent of the department and by methods authorized by him/her. Mountain lions attacking or killing livestock or domestic animals, or attacking human beings, may be killed without prior permission, but the kill must be reported immediately to an agent of the department and the intact mountain lion carcass, including pelt, must be surrendered to the agent within twenty-four (24) hours.